RECORD OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BROOKLINE SCHOOL COMMITTEE HELD ON **THURSDAY**, **FEBRUARY 25**, **2016** AT 6:00 PM IN THE JAMES F. WALSH SCHOOL COMMITTEE ROOM, 5<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, TOWN HALL. STATUTORY NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS FILED WITH THE TOWN CLERK.

School Committee Members Present: Ms. Ditkoff (Chairman), Ms. Scotto (Vice Chairman), Mr. Chang, Ms. Charlupski, Mr. Glover, Mr. Pollak, Ms. Stone, and Ms. Stram. School Committee members absent: Dr. Jackson. Others present: Dr. Connelly, Dr. Fischer-Mueller, Dr. Shmukler, Ms. Dunn, Mr. Lummis, Mr. Kahn, and Ms. Coyne.

#### 1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

#### a. Calendar

Ms. Ditkoff called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. She noted upcoming events on the calendar.

## b. Consent Agenda ACTION 16-7

On a motion of Ms. Stone and seconded by Ms. Scotto, the School Committee VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to approve the item included in the Consent Agenda.

i. Past Record: February 4, 2016 School Committee Meeting

#### 2. SUBCOMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

#### a. Finance

# i. Proposed Vote to Approve the Revised FY 2017 Budget Development Calendar

Ms. Stram explained the changes to the FY 2017 Budget Development Calendar (Attachment A). Dr. Connelly stated that he will schedule public Budget Forums and will ask Brookline Interactive Group (BIG) to tape the meetings.

#### **ACTION 16-8**

On a motion of Ms. Stram and seconded by Ms. Charlupski, the School Committee VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to approve the revised FY 2017 Budget Development Calendar, as shown in Attachment A.

Ms. Dunn reported that there was a Town-School Partnership meeting on February 22, 2016. The group discussed FY 2017 school budget development, revenue estimates, factors that may help address the projected deficit, and Capital Improvements Program (CIP) funding for 9th school and high school studies.

#### **b.** Capital Improvements

Mr. Pollak stated that later in the meeting the School Committee will be discussing whether to submit a 2016 Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

#### c. Curriculum

Ms. Charlupski reported that the Curriculum Subcommittee met on February 24, 2016 to review a report on the achievement gap. The Curriculum Subcommittee will meet on March 10, 2016 to review the Pierce and Runkle School Improvement Plans and will meet on March 31, 2016 to hear an update on technology.

#### d. Government Relations

Ms. Stone reminded everyone that March 1, 2016 is "Super Tuesday."

#### e. Policy Review

There was nothing to report at this time.

#### f. Additional Liaisons and Updates

Ms. Charlupski reported that earlier today she attended an EDCO Collaborative Board meeting. The group discussed a new student initiative with the Edward Kennedy Institute; heard an update on the consultant's work to look at the feasibility of a merger (will report in June); and talked about upcoming speakers. We were able to find space for the Manville Partners Program at the high school for the coming year. Brookline has one student in the program (out of nine). It is an inclusion program. Brookline offers many in-house programs, so we do not have much need for collaborative programs. We mainly use EDCO for professional development opportunities and job alike groups.

#### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following people spoke in support of a resolution of negotiations with the Brookline Educators Union: Valerie Leiter, Brookline High School parent; Mrudula Donepudi, Pierce parent; Julie Bruno, Pierce and Brookline High School parent; and Martha Sibert, Brookline High School parent. Comments: would like to see this resolved as quickly as possible; it is beginning to negatively impact the students; many teachers have placed an auto-reply on their email accounts indicating that they will only respond during regular work hours; may limit opportunities for students, such as study abroad options.

#### 4. STUDENT REPORT

Mr. Kahn provided the following report:

There are so many interesting events and ideas floating around the high school, it was hard for me to decide where to start. I'll begin where I left off in my last report. When I talked about the non-gendered bathrooms that will hopefully be installed soon, Ms. Ditkoff asked if there are other things that make trans folks more or less included. So I asked around, and in addition to access to bathrooms there were a few other thoughts I wanted to share.

Firstly, many of the trans students at BHS change their name when they come out. If their name is not legally changed, the name they use is not reflected in the school computer system, X2. This presents a challenge on the first day of class and whenever there is a substitute teacher because attendance printed from the computer system lists

only legal names. This might seem minor to us, but it's actually a major thing for many trans students. Some of them recalled the first day of school, which is stressful enough, and they had to run to the next class to tell the teacher not to read the name on the list. This process is repeated each time there is a sub, which can be often. One of my friends described why this is such a challenge: their legal name is not who they are. Their legal name represents my friend at a bad time in their life, characterized by dysphoria and malaise. Calling them by their legal name brings them back to this time and can ruin the rest of their day. I know this is anecdotal, but it represents a sentiment I hear all the time: there are lots of things that trans students everywhere, including BHS, face every day that never even occurred to me or this committee unless we listen.

I can't list all of the challenges trans students face on a daily basis right now because I don't know them and also because it would span well beyond my docketed time. I'm glad I have the opportunity to bring this up here to the School Committee because the school should remove structural challenges. This conversation was revitalized a few weeks ago when a group of students presented at a faculty meeting about being a trans student in the high school. One change is underway on the X2 computer system. It's related to names on attendance lists. Mr. Mason is pursuing ways that students can enter their name into the computer system and have that print out instead of their legal name. I want to point out that this change, like the non gendered bathrooms, is still yet to be implemented. It has honest support by students, teachers, and administrators, so I'm pointing this out not to chastise anyone. I'm highlighting this because I hope that if any of these changes land on your table you can help expedite the process and not let it fall under the rug.

On another topic, some students are expressing nuanced concerns about snow days. Brookline is relatively conservative compared to neighboring districts when it comes to snow days. This has obvious benefits, but it's import to be cognizant of some particular student concerns. I know students talking about snow days is sometimes hard to take seriously, but I think this point should. Mr. Pollak heard this on Monday at the Superintendent candidate meeting at the high school, and maybe some of you have heard this before; nonetheless, it is important to consider.

Some kids in METCO highlighted the unequal way snow days affect students. Getting to school in six inches of snow affects kids who live in Boston very differently than kids who live across the street. If the T breaks down or the roads are very congested, the kids who need to travel the furthest are usually most affected, and these are most likely kids in the METCO program. In addition to missing material in class due to weather, which can put them behind academically, these students are also put at risk of potentially losing credit for a course. Under the attendance policy implemented three years ago, a student can get an "N" grade, which is a failing grade, if they miss beyond a number of classes for whatever reason. It's a serious issue if snow affects a student's ability to do well in school, especially when it disproportionately affects a single group. I know that there are many factors taken into consideration when calling a snow day, and I hope this is one of them.

This leads to another series of discussions happening around the school about racial equity. Spawned out of student calls to action, a series of "Lunch and Learns" was formed to implement plans to increase equity. The goal is to create a list of actionable steps and execute them. A different department or program hosts the meeting each week, so the content is sometimes focused on a certain academic area, for example, math. Recently, such a meeting was attended by Ms. Holman, several deans, and many students. I was not there, but I know several of you, like Dr. Connelly and Dr. Fischer-Mueller were. Therefore, I won't try to summarize it, but I do hope that at some point someone who has gone to these can address to a wider audience how the ideas will be implemented.

And finally, on a different topic I'm sure you've heard: teacher contracts. I'm not going to reiterate the facts you all are deeply aware of. I just want to share my perspective as a student and the perspectives I've heard and observed around the school, especially since the voice of students is often not heard. It feels kind of weird to be in the high school right now. I know I'm hyperaware of contract-related issues, but it's nearly impossible for a student not to notice. Teachers are adding auto-replies on their emails stating that they won't check email except during contracted school hours. Additionally, on Mondays teachers are leaving the school at 3:00. Just this week, a transition meeting for parents that is historically full of teachers was canceled. This all is noticeable because although teachers' contracted hours may end at 3:00, the vast majority of them lend their time to students—whether it's running a club or simply answering questions.

Our teachers are here because they want to teach and interact with students, so it's sad to see them feel disrespected and underappreciated. From a student perspective, the lack of contract has affected teacher moral. Although teachers are limited in what they can say about contracts, we can sense that they don't want to turn us away after school. I know all of you joined the School Committee because you care about the schools, and that there are many factors you must weigh when budgeting for salaries. But when making decisions about where to place the money, please know that I don't speak alone when I say that many of us place our highest priorities on the people who fill our school. Nothing is more important to us than our teachers.

#### 5. INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Connelly provided the following report:

## 1. <u>Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Statement of Interest (SOI)</u> <u>Status on 9<sup>th</sup> School and Brookline High School (BHS) Expansion Project</u>

In a follow-up conversation with the MSBA on Tuesday, February 26, 2016 it was confirmed if a district already has an approved SOI, that SOI (Devotion School) is the district's priority SOI until the time of that project's completion. As this time, the Devotion Project is scheduled to move into construction phase in June 2016 and not be completed until August 2018. This would indicate an SOI submitted by Brookline for a 9<sup>th</sup> school and/or BHS expansion project would not be acted upon by MSBA until December 2018 at the earliest.

Current K-12 enrollment projections indicate enrollment driven additional classroom space will be needed no later than FY22. A Brookline project that waited for MSBA approval and funding partnership (FY19) would not be completed until FY24 or FY 25. Faced with this delay, and realizing the urgent need to initiate the process of addressing Brookline's school space needs, the Advisory Committee voted 16-0-1 at their February 22, 2016 meeting to recommend not to submit an SOI for the high school expansion project. The Advisory Committee also clearly supports the  $9^{th}$  school study proceed without seeking MSBA involvement.

Due to the pressing need for additional classroom space at both the K-8 and High School level, I do not believe the Town can afford to wait 2 or 3 years to obtain MSBA partnership on one of these two desperately needed school construction projects. I strongly recommend the necessary concept studies and feasibility studies be undertaken as soon as possible so that the most advantageous plan for each project can be identified to allow each project to be completed on or before FY22.

#### 2. Coolidge Corner Merchants' Association Meeting – March 9, 2016

Kara Brewton and I will attend the March 9<sup>th</sup> Coolidge Corner Merchants' Association (CCMA) meeting to discuss Public Schools of Brookline interest in accessing a total of 30 daytime parking spaces during school years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 from either or both the Center Street East and Center Street West parking lots.

This meeting with CCMA will be followed by a meeting with the Brookline Transportation Board on March 17<sup>th</sup>. At the March 17<sup>th</sup> Transportation Board meeting, I plan to discuss the possibility of swapping existing Devotion School onstreet parking permits with the CCMA during the period of time the Devotion School occupies 30 Webster Street as a temporary school site. Also on the agenda will be to begin discussions with the Transportation Board concerning the most beneficial traffic flow plan involving Webster Street and Marion Street during this 2 year period. Now that we have Verizon's approval to use their 37 Marion Street parking lot to access the Devotion School 30 Webster Street location during the AM parent drop-off and PM parent pick-up times, it will be our intent to seek support for using Marion Street for this purpose and to use Webster Street for mid-day traffic and limited visitor parking.

# 3. <u>International Field Trips to the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua cancelled due to Zika virus concerns</u>

BHS has several international trips planned for school year 2015 - 2016. Three of these trip locations, Mexico (Feb. 13 – 27, 2016), Dominican Republic (April 15 – 24, 2016) and Nicaragua (April 15 – 23, 2016) were recently identified by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) as foreign countries where the Zika virus transmission had been confirmed. As a result of this advisory and extensive further investigation by BHS staff it was determined the Mexico trip could proceed as scheduled, but the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua trips should be cancelled. I have requested all

future international field trip notification letters to students and their families include a "caution" statement that informs parents international field trips are always subject to being cancelled as a result of developing conditions that would deem the trip unsafe for the students to attend and that some portion of the trip cost may not be refundable.

## 4. Upper Devotion (OLS) Water Quality

The current status, as you are aware, is that the Town is providing bottled water dispensers in each bathroom and other classroom areas for the purpose of drinking water. Students are instructed to only use faucets to wash their hands. The tests have shown lead levels in bathroom faucets when the water has sat unused for an extended period are higher than acceptable, and while levels from the kitchen faucets are below EPA limits, until we fully understand the situation, in an abundance of caution, we have been using bottled water for cooking and consumption.

Ongoing water testing will continue to be conducted periodically in order to solve and resolve the town's concerns. Parents have been notified and students have been told to only drink or consume water from the bottled water dispensers provided, and to only refill personal water bottles from these dispensers.

### 5. 24 Webster Place PSB Office Annex Official Name Request

Recently, the 24 Webster Place staff and PSB visitors to the just opened 24 Webster Place School Department office annex were asked to help identify an official name for this new PSB office location. Several names were suggested and everyone was asked to vote for their preferred choice. The names that were submitted for voting were the following:

- 1. Brookline Public School Resource Center BPRC
- 2. Brookline Education Resource Center BERC
- 3. Brookline Resource Center The BRC Center
- 4. Brookline Community Education Center The BCEC Center

The name that was overwhelmingly voted the preferred choice was:

#### BROOKLINE EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER - BERC

The staff of 24 Webster Place request School Committee approval to identify their work place as the Brookline Education Resource Center. (The School Committee expressed their support.)

## 6. Town Hall Fifth Floor Office Build-Out Completed during February Vacation

In an attempt to create additional office work space on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor, an open space adjacent to the kitchenette area that had been used by 1 or 2 support staff in recent years was transformed into 3 well designed office cubicle work areas by the Brookline Building Department staff during the recent February vacation week. Quotes for this work had been sought from outside vendors but the costs proved to be prohibitive. Instead, Mr. Simmons and his staff offered to use existing office partition

stock to create the much needed 3 work stations. I am pleased to report, once again, Mr. Simmons and his staff delivered, and at little or no cost to the PSB. I invite everyone to stop by and appreciate the fine work done by our Building Department staff. Special acknowledgements go to Charlie Simmons, Leo Hovsepian, Ed Moore, Bill Murphy, Pete Gentes and Neil Abelli. Letters of appreciation will be sent.

#### 7. Administrative Personnel Update

#### Pierce and Lawrence School Principal Searches

Initial interviews will be completed by the week of February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Second round interviews of finalists identified by each Search Committee have already begun and should be completed by early next week. Every effort is being made to complete this search process as soon as possible as it is apparent most, if not all, of the candidates chosen as finalists are also being considered by other school districts. It is my hope to be able to announce the preferred candidates by the School Committee's March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. This would be two weeks ahead of schedule.

## Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning

Currently, we are engaged in interviewing finalists for the Senior Director for Teaching and Learning and hope to have this position filled by April 1<sup>st</sup> or earlier. It is strongly felt this position and the Senior Director of Programs will be called upon to help with the transition of leadership with the Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning. It is my recommendation that a job posting for this position be advertised as soon as Dr. Fischer-Mueller officially resigns her position effective June 30, 2016. I am hopeful a strong pool of candidates for this position can be generated with a March 2016 posting and official start date of July 1, 2016.

# 8. Kindergarten Registrations for School Year 2016 – 2017 as of February 23, 2016

Attached you will find the current enrollment status report for the incoming class for September 2016 as submitted by the Office of Student Affairs. This report indicates our current registration number, including pending applications already identified, total 404 as compared to 402 this time last year.

Dr. Connelly noted that use of bottled water at Old Lincoln School has been a longstanding practice. School Committee members stressed the importance of making sure that parents (and School Committee members) are aware of this and asked that there be annual reminders to the parents.

# 6. PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS OF CURRENT ISSUES a. Strategic Plan 2.0 – Update on Strategic Planning Framework, Process and Timeline

Ben Lummis, Special Assistant to the Superintendent for Strategy and Performance, presented an update on the strategic planning framework, process and timeline (Attachment B). Mr. Lummis noted the purpose of the Strategic Plan: 1) A unifying force that provides clarity on three questions for all stakeholders-school,

teachers, departments, programs, staff, families, community members – Where we are going? What we are doing to get there? How we will measure our progress? 2) Allows for a balance between district-wide coherence and school autonomy. 3) Drives decision making and shapes our way of operating and getting things done. 4) Drives School Improvement planning and builds alignment across schools. Mr. Lummis explained the product (streamlined, focused three-year plan that does not define every step or every metric; simplicity and the ability to grasp the entire plan are more important than comprehensiveness) and the process (needs to be time-limited; include teachers, staff, and principals; begin with what we have). Mr. Lummis summarized the Strategic Planning Framework (Aspirations; District-wide Priorities; Actions and Initiatives) and explained who will be doing the work at each stage. The Working Group will include teachers, senior staff, principals, coordinators, and PTO presidents/School Council Chairs. He discussed the four district-wide priorities (Every Student Achieving, Every Student Invested in Learning, Every Student Prepared for Change and Challenge, and Every Educator Growing Professionally) and summarized the timeline for developing Strategic Plan 2.0.

#### **Questions/Comments:**

To what extent are we planning to look at research in the field and data in the district? (We are already steeped in the research. The bulk of this is work we are already doing.) We need to make sure that the process is inclusive and includes representation from organizations that play a role in addressing our priorities. (Agreed and noted that the parent-wide groups include representatives of these organizations.)

Appreciate that we will consider whether there are tasks we can stop doing. We need to think carefully about the impact on educator workload. (This provides an opportunity to look at how the work aligns with our priorities.)

Will stakeholder input be solicited before the draft is shared in May-June? (We will ask for feedback throughout the process.)

Where are we on the timeline? (We have received input from the district groups.) The language should be gender neutral; avoid "his/her."

Where in the timeline do we do the following: pull together the pieces and map out what we are already doing to try to address the priorities; note the gaps and overlaps and what is and isn't working? (This is an action step. We have already embarked on an educational inventory.)

There are some pieces (e.g., math curriculum, middle school initiatives, and technology plan) that need to be continued whether or not they fall under a specific District Priority. We recognize the need to keep this moving, but understand the reality of staff transitions. Buy-in comes from investment in the process and not in the roll out. (Have started with senior staff, principals, coordinators, and directors; need to go through the same steps with teachers; is an ongoing process that will continue for the next three years; follow-through leads to more buy-in.)

#### **b.** Update on Superintendent Transition Process

Ms. Ditkoff provided an update on the Superintendent Transition Process. She expressed her appreciation to Dr. Jackson, who is chairing the search, Mr. Lummis, and

Ms. Coyne, and also to the community members who have participated in the process. The three finalists, Dr. Bernard Taylor, Andrew Bott and Jon Sills, were selected from a nationally recruited pool of 29 candidates after screening and interviews by the Superintendent Search Subcommittee of the School Committee. Current or former superintendents made up 48% of the applicant pool; 34% of applicants are people of color; and 28% are African American. Hundreds of community members, teachers, parents, district staff, and students participated in the search process through five community-wide forums, more than 30 focus groups, and an online survey that was open during December and January. Each candidate spent a day in Brookline visiting schools and interviewing with principals, teachers, staff, students, parents, community members, and district leaders. The School Committee invites and welcomes input from the Finalist Review Committee and others who had the opportunity to participate in or view the interviews. The public interviews are available for viewing at the Brookline Interactive Group (BIG) You Tube channel. The public input period will be extended through Monday. Because of this, the School Committee will wait until March 3, 2016 to discuss the input. Ms. Stram will prepare a rubric to help organize the conversation. Mr. Kahn stated that students are invested in this process, but may not have known about the surveys. Staff will contact Ms. Holman to find out how best to reach out to the students, particularly those who had the opportunity to meet with the candidates.

# c. Discussion and Proposed Vote on whether to Support the Submission of a 2016 Statement of Interest (SOI) to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA)

Mr. Pollak reported that the Capital Improvements Subcommittee met on February 12, 2016 and discussed 9<sup>th</sup> elementary school site selection next steps and whether to submit a 2016 SOI to the MSBA. As Dr. Connelly noted during his report, the MSBA is unlikely to act on a 9<sup>th</sup> elementary school or Brookline High School expansion project before completion of the Devotion project. The MSBA process requires very thorough planning and standardized norms (might be very similar to what we would propose for an elementary school whether or not we had MSBA funding, but might be considerably different than what we would recommend for a high school project.) The Capital Subcommittee voted to recommend that the School Committee vote that the Town Administrator not submit an SOI in April 2016. As Dr. Connelly noted earlier this evening, "The Advisory Committee voted 16-0-1 at their February 26, 2016 meeting to recommend not to submit an SOI for the high school expansion project. The Advisory Committee also clearly supports the 9<sup>th</sup> school study proceed without seeking MSBA involvement." The Board of Selectmen is waiting to hear from the School Committee before taking a vote.

RECORD VOL. 2016

#### **ACTION 16-9**

On a motion of Ms. Stone and seconded by Mr. Pollak, the School Committee VOTED UNANIMOUSLY that the School Committee act with all deliberate speed to develop plans for defining, siting, designing, and constructing a) the necessary expansion of the high school and b) a 9<sup>th</sup> elementary school, without resubmitting a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Ms. Dunn provided an update on the development of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for school concept studies. On Monday she will submit a draft of the scope to Ms. Brewton, Mr. Guigli and Mr. Masak and ask for their feedback. She asked the Committee for clarification on whether the high school project should be on a similar timeline. The Committee discussed whether the 111 Cypress Street site should be included in the RFQ. Members noted that the site has great potential, but a school may not be the best use; we could assess its potential as a high school, but there is no guarantee that we would choose to use it for a high school; there is active interest in this site and we should act quickly; encourage the town to act with us in looking at this property; get community input; don't want to delay the RFQ process; is a potential high school site, but we are not planning to use it for a high school; there are things that we would like to know about the site, but we don't want to disrupt the timeline (May selection; May-August study; fall decision). Ms. Dunn will talk to Mr. Geanakakis and Mr. Guigli to see if the RFQ could be written so that we could make adjustments to the scope (add alternate).

#### d. Preview of Interim Superintendent's FY 2017 Budget

Dr. Connelly and Deputy Superintendent for Administration and Finance Mary Ellen Dunn presented a preview of the Interim Superintendent's FY 2017 Budget (Attachment C). Total FY 2017 revenue is projected to be \$104,034,528 while projected expenditures total \$105,203, 676, resulting in a projected deficit of \$1,169,149. Revenue for the school operating budget comes from the Town/School Partnership, circuit breaker, tuition and fees, rental of facilities, revolving fund offsets, and other sources. The budget has significant pressure from 1) transportation (Upper Devotion transportation and general and special education transportation contracts), 2) benefits for new personnel, and 3) enrollment growth. The 2015 Override identified positions to be added to the operating budget for years two and three. Special education enrollment continues to grow and needs are expanding. Our out-of-district population remains steady. Staffing efficiencies and integrated learning strategies are utilized wherever possible. The proposed budget will include provisions to address ongoing collective bargaining negotiations.

There was a Town-School Partnership meeting on February 22, 2016. We will know the Group Insurance Commission (GIC) rates in early March. Dr. Connelly and Ms. Dun will be meeting with principals, curriculum coordinators, and budget managers on February 29, 2016, to provide an update on the status of the budget. Working with the Town Administrator's team, budget managers, along with implementing internal controls

# BROOKLINE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING REGULAR MEETING

2/25/16 PAGE 37

and looking for efficiencies, we will attempt to mitigate the existing deficit we are experiencing from transportation and health insurance benefits.

### **Questions/Comments:**

Are we using one-time funds to support the operating budget? (We are using \$426,608 in Circuit Breaker reserves. We have a one-time deficit in transportation.) The School Committee would like more discussion on this.

How do we project enrollment? (In part, we look at the cohort survival rate. Enrollments are tracking close to last year.)

If we are projecting kindergarten enrollment will go from 633 to 671, should we project the need for an additional classroom/teacher? How do these projections compare to Dr. Connelly's projections?

What is the multiplier for specialists? (We used .6 specialists per teacher. Past budgets used .3. Ms. Dunn will provide the rationale for using .6.)

We need to be able to show how the override funds have been allocated. We need to be transparent.

How will the projected deficit of \$1,169,149 be resolved? What will happen between now and the budget vote on April 7? (The administration is not proposing any cuts at this point; we should be able to manage through this deficit through revenues and internal controls and efficiencies.)

The Committee discussed whether the Interim Town Administrator's recommended budget needs to be in balance or can reflect a deficit. If the budget is not in balance, it will need to provide the context for managing the deficit. The School Committee is required to submit a balanced budget to Town Meeting. A recommended budget that is balanced could include a list of priority add-backs.

Dr. Connelly's intent is to present a balanced budget to the Finance Subcommittee on March 7, 2016 and to the full School Committee on March 10, 2016. Ms. Stram will follow up with Dr. Connelly and Ms. Dunn.

#### 7. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

#### 8. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Ditkoff adjourned the meeting at 10:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin E. Coyne, Executive Assistant Brookline School Committee